

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 11-14 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 11, and 14 are amended, and claim 15 is newly presented. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this Application in view of the following remarks.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because “silicon” should be replaced with “silicone.” Applicants have amended the specification as suggested and the objection is overcome.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the phrases “to position the attaching roller into the predetermined position” and “an elastic support portion” in claims 11 and 14, respectively, are unclear. Applicants have clarified the claims as suggested and respectfully request that the § 112 rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ozawa et al., Japanese Patent No. 6-293322. Claims 1 and 11 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ozawa et al. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ozawa et al. in view of Lindstrom et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,321,103. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ozawa et al. in view of Adachi, U.S. Patent No. 4,468,274. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ozawa et al. in view of Horai et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,714,028, and Matuda et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,725,327. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ozawa et al. in view of Selak et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,133,396. Claim 12, however, is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, Applicants have incorporated a relevant limitation from allowable claim 12 into independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 and all the rest of the claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1, are allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the § 102 and § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that newly presented claim 15 is allowable at least by virtue of its ultimate dependence from independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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